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INTERPRETS REMOVAL OF SOVIET MINISTER;  
TERMS MOSCOW'S POWER A "SCARECROW"

DISCUSS POLITICAL CHANGES IN ALBANIA -- Rome, Shqiperia, 31 Mar 52

The removal of the Soviet Minister from Tirana and his replacement by Klementy Levychkin are extraordinarily significant. No one knows positively whether there has been a final quarrel between Enver Hoxha and Mehmet Shehu. If Moscow has recalled Chuvakin, after so many years of experience in Albania, it may be assumed that some very strong reason compelled it to take such an unexpected step.

It is interesting to conjecture which side Chuvakin espoused in the quarrel between Hoxha and his minister Shehu and whose complaints induced Moscow to make this change. The side Chuvakin took is not so very important. The fact is that there is great confusion in Tirana about the quarrel, and the intervention of the Kremlin's representative in the matter did not achieve the desired result. It was not just an internal quarrel which forced the Kremlin to change its representative at Tirana. Moscow sacrificed Chuvakin on the basis of complaints which Hoxha's government made about the bad manners of the Russians and the poor fulfillment of Moscow's promises of economic and political aid.

Moscow has other troubles, and Tirana is of comparatively little value to her; hence, it seems astonishing that Moscow should make any sacrifices for Tirana. In fact, until recently the Soviets in Albania were being replaced by Bulgarians and East Germans. Tirana is angry with her master in the Kremlin for many reasons. Except for the top Albanian officials, the Tirana Bolsheviks are scandalized at the Kremlin's inefficiency in stopping the propaganda and most of the activities of the National Committee for Free Albania.

In Tirana people once thought that when Stalin's mustache quivered, the world stopped breathing. It is well that today they see that Moscow's power is only a "scarecrow" to frighten crows. Today, people laugh at the threats

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and thunderings against Tito. Everywhere the Communist parties have fallen asleep and only with difficulty raise their voices here and there to show that they have not been buried alive.

Moscow realizes that the free world will no longer endure the twaddle and intrigues of Bolshevik agents. Stalin himself is convinced that the peoples oppressed by him are only awaiting a favorable opportunity to pluck out his whiskers and get rid of all the noisy traitors in his service. Therefore, representatives of the Kremlin are today holding their tongues and have apparently begun to use the so-called "peaceful" method to prepare a strategic withdrawal.

Meanwhile, on the Yugoslav-Albanian border disturbances and patrol clashes continue. Last week, in a clash between Yugoslavs and Albanians there were deaths on both sides. Disturbances along the border are increasing because of the escape of so many Albanians to Yugoslavia. Albanian border guards have orders to stop border crossings at all costs. They even push on into Yugoslav territory and clash with the guards on that side of the border.

The Greek authorities likewise report that Albanian refugees from the Bolshevik inferno of Enver Hoxha give themselves up every day to Greek border guards.

BULGARIAN COMMUNISTS IN ALBANIA -- Paris, Rideau de Fer, 10 Apr 52

In accordance with directives from Moscow, the Bulgarian Communist Party has dispatched some of its eminent members to Tirana to help direct the Albanian Communist Party. It seemed that the USSR could no longer control Albania and therefore delegated the task to Bulgaria. It is believed in Albania that the change in leadership and especially the arrival of strangers to lead the people gave a new impetus to resistance groups in the country.

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